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analogous arrangement of cells and fibres in the posterior portion of the cord, save that the number of cells is fourteen, and that the large fibres coming from them pass cephalad to the anterior end of the cord. In this course they give off fine branches, but undergo little diminution in size, and finally terminate rather abruptly at the head end. (The failure of some of these colossal fibres to diminish in size during their course is a fact that needs further study.)

*Functional Nervous Diseases, their Causes and Treatment.* Memoir for the Concourse of 1881-1883, Académie royale de médecine de Belgique, with a supplement on the anomalies of refraction and accommodation of the eye and ocular muscles. GEORGE T. STEVENS. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1887.

The title of this book is quite misleading, for the discussion of functional nervous diseases and treatment is almost exclusively limited to the relations which abnormalities of the eyes and the ocular muscles may hold to them. The author has particularly noticed that the eyes are abnormal in a large number of cases of functional nervous diseases, and further has found it possible to cure and relieve many of them by treating the eyes. He recognizes that unstable nervous systems are found, that the condition of instability may be hereditarily transmitted, and that the irritation proceeding from disordered eyes may be a stimulus strong enough to produce a functional disturbance in an unstable nervous system, without, perhaps, making it very plain by what he says that any strong stimulus may produce the same result, and that the instances which he presents are to be considered as special examples of this well recognized fact.

*Studien über den feineren Bau des Geschmacksorgans.* FRIEDRICH HERMANN. Erlangen, 1887. Druck der Universitätsbuchdruckerei von E. Th. Jacob. 8vo, SS. 41.

The first part of this monograph is occupied with an historical review and critical discussion of the results and conclusions reached by various investigators respecting the more intimate structure of the taste-bulbs. The remaining portion contains the results attained by Hermann, who confined himself, almost exclusively, to an examination of the foliate papilla of the rabbit. The supporting cells of the taste-bulbs, he says, are not flat cells, as supposed by some previous observers, but are spindle-shaped cells filled with fluid. They are of two kinds, inner and outer supporting cells. The outer cells, which he designates "pillar cells," and which constitute the true supporting element of the bulb, are pyramid or spindle-shaped cells, having their basal ends divided into a number of fine processes. The cell-body is marked by a distinct network of fine meshes. The nucleus is situated in the lower half of the cell-body, and contains two or three nucleoli. The inner supporting cells, which are fewer in number than the preceding, are cylindrical in form, having enlarged bases which break up into fine processes. The peripheral end of these cells does not bear needle-shaped processes. The nucleus is elliptical and lacks true nucleoli. These cells, Hermann thinks, may be those described by Schwalbe as "staff cells," and supposed by him to be sensory in function. Hermann describes a third kind of supporting cell, flat or conical in